

# A DANGEROUS FAITH

## BIG IDEA

A dangerous faith is nothing but trust under fire.

## SCRIPTURE

Read Daniel Chapter 3 aloud.

## OPENER

As a Christian, what does “the courage of my convictions” mean to you?

## QUESTIONS

1. What are the ways that Satan (the world) makes following Jesus seem too high a price and sin seem so desirable/priceless?
2. What modern day idols are people tempted to bow down to?
3. As a believer have you experienced a “golden statue” event when others required you to “bow down” and it violated your Christian beliefs? Share. Were there consequences if you failed to follow the directive to “bow down?” Explain.
4. How will we know what God’s plan of deliverance is for us if we never take a stand for Christ? Discuss.
5. Suppose the story read that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego died instantly in the fiery furnace. Would this outcome negatively impact your view of God’s sovereignty? Would you still view this as a great story of faith even if they died?
6. Why didn’t God rescue them before they went into the furnace? They were rescued in the furnace. Is there a situation in your life you wanted God to intervene before it happened, but He allowed you to go through it anyway?
7. Talk about a time that you experienced the presence of God, during one of life’s fires.

## TAKEAWAY

A dangerous faith is saying, “No!” to anything that will not bring glory to God.

Life is too unpredictable to live outside of God.

“I can choose to believe that every obstacle is an opportunity when I am rightly related to Christ in faith.” (*John Dickerson, Hope of Nations, Chapter 10, p 199*)

## REFERENCES

- Isaiah 12:2; 43:1-2
- Matthew 4:1-10
- John 12:23-25
- Acts 5:29, 20:27
- Romans 8:28
- Philippians 1:21

## WORD WEALTH

**THE COURAGE OF ONE'S CONVICTIONS:** To have the confidence to act or behave in accordance with one's beliefs, especially in the face of criticism or persecution.

**FAITH:** Reliance, loyalty or complete trust in God; a system of religious beliefs.

**UNDER FIRE:** Strong criticism or antagonism

**PERFECT RESPONSE:** An ideal answer or reply to a difficult question.

**PRESENCE OF GOD/CHRISTOPHANY:** An appearance or non-physical manifestation of Christ.

## DIGGING DEEPER

1. In Daniel chapter 3, when the three Hebrew men continued to stand when all the others bowed down to the golden statue, they knew the law of God.
  - a. In Exodus 20:3-5, God specifically states you shall have no other gods before Me... You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. So, they knew once the Lord had spoken on a matter, it was settled, no room for discussion or need for compromise. What would have been the consequences for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego if they had compromised? Discuss.
  - b. If they didn't know their Scripture well, they wouldn't have known that it was against God's law to bow down to anyone but God. Discuss James 4:17 Joshua 1:8, and Psalm 119:11.
2. How do you respond when people you are with use the LORD'S name inappropriately, gossip, curse, or commit some other sin that the World finds completely acceptable?